

An essay usually has a minimum of **five** paragraphs:

→**Introduction:** -Lists the thesis (the sentence with the argument)
used to
argument
interested

- Includes the three things that will be used to support/explain/defend the argument
- Sentence(s) to make the reader interested

→**Body Paragraphs:** -Detailed paragraphs that **expand** on the three main things listed in the **introduction**. To do this, include support, facts, information, examples and explanations about that main piece of support.

THERE ARE AT LEAST THREE BODY PARAGRAPHS!

→**Conclusion:**

- A final paragraph that restates the **thesis** to remind the reader
- Review the three main supporting paragraph points
- Leaves the reader with sentence(s) to allow them to remember the essay

HOW TO WRITE AN EFFECTIVE INTRODUCTION

1. Ensure that your topic and thesis are clearly identified. If your essay focuses on a book, ensure the author and title appear in the first sentence.
2. Identify the three main points you will cover in the introduction in the order that you plan to expand upon them within the body paragraphs of your essay.
3. Include a final sentence that uses a “hook” to catch the audience’s attention. This could include a rhetorical question, emotional appeal, etc.

HOW TO SET UP A GOOD ESSAY BODY PARAGRAPH...

1. Introduce the main idea of the paragraph
2. Support the main idea with **examples, facts, reasons** and **explanations** in as much detail as possible.
3. Conclude your paragraph

Example:

One of the reasons that the Learning Strategies course should remain at GCHS is because it helps students be successful in school. For example, it teaches students to be organized. One way it does this is by introducing students how to use an agenda. Another reason is because it teaches students time management skills. This skill is an important skill for students to know in order to be successful in all classes. In high school, students need to balance a mix of classes and a schedule that is different than

elementary school. A course that teaches students how to deal with this new setting helps students adjust to high school. Finally, the Learning Strategies course gives students methods to deal with conflict. Sometimes situations occur with students, teachers or parents and knowing how to deal with these problems is an important way to be successful. This course makes sure students learn how to do this properly. Therefore, this course should remain at the school for all of these reasons that allow students to be successful.

NOTICE:

- There are many examples, reasons and explanations to make the points within the paragraph easy to understand – there's no guessing!
- All of the stuff in this body paragraph are about the paragraph's main idea
- This paragraph is easier to write if it is planned in advance using a table or chart